
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2012/13 SOUTHEAST ALASKA COMMERCIAL GEODUCK CLAM FISHERY

Juneau . . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) announced today the following information concerning the 2012/13 commercial geoduck clam season in Southeast Alaska:

The Southeast Alaska commercial geoduck clam season will begin Thursday, October 4, 2012, with a guideline harvest level (GHL) of 743,100 pounds (not including the District 13 fishery areas). Fishing areas will be opened based on paralytic shellfish poison (PSP) test results. Weekly PSP results are expected on Monday afternoons; however, if sampling is delayed the fishing period may also be delayed up to one day. Fishing periods will be announced by ADF&G news release and will generally occur on Thursdays between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

In the Ketchikan management area, harvest will be restricted to one day per week for the beginning of the season. After December, the Department may, in coordination with the Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association (SARDFA), shift to a two day a week fishery, generally occurring on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Current fishery information for the Ketchikan area can be obtained from a recorded telephone message at 225-6870 (Ketchikan).

In the Sitka management area, fishing for the 2012/2013 season will begin in September 2013 and is expected to be two days a week until the GHL is reached. The fishing schedule and GHLs for the Sitka fishery areas (District 13) will be announced prior to the fishery with underage and overage policy adjustments.

Vessel registration and permit is required prior to fishing for geoduck clams and a separate registration is required for the Ketchikan and Sitka management areas. Harvesters are required to contact ADF&G at least two full business days prior to fishing in a new registration area.

The geoduck clam fishery will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday from Sunday, November 18, 2012, through Saturday, November 24, 2012, and the Christmas holiday from Sunday, December 23, 2012, through Saturday, January 5, 2013. October 18 (Alaska Day), November 12 (Veteran's Day), January 21 (Martin Luther King Jr's Day), February 18 (President's Day), and March 25 (Seward's Day), are state holidays which will occur during the geoduck fishery. State agencies will be closed on these days so PSP results will not be available until the following day.

This season, the department will be adjusting GHLs according to the overage-underage policy which was designed to maintain the geoduck average harvest rate at 2% of the estimated biomass, as required by 5AAC 38.142(g). Harvest from the previous season that was over or under the specified GHL for each

fishery area has been rounded to the nearest 100 pounds and the resulting overage or underage was subtracted or added, respectively, to the GHLS for each fishery area for the this rotation.

The mandatory logbook program for geoduck clams (5AAC 38.142(m)) will continue for the 2012/13 season. This requires that logbooks be filled out before departing the harvest site and returned to ADF&G within 7 days of landing. This data provides biologists with information on new and existing geoduck clam beds. Specific instructions for filling out the logbooks will be included with logbook packets, which can be picked up at all ADF&G offices after September 18, 2012. All logbook information will remain confidential. Logbooks should be turned in with fish tickets or mailed directly to the Petersburg ADF&G office, C/O Jeff Meucci at P.O. 667, Petersburg, AK 99833.

Harvesters are reminded that there are areas closed to the commercial harvest of geoduck clams described in 5 AAC 38.142(l) for Districts 1, 3, and 13.

Guideline Harvest Levels by Area:

A total of 744,000 pounds of whole geoduck clams will be available for harvest this season as follows:

District 1:

Foggy Bay (Subdistrict 101-23-001): will be open for a GHL of 41,200 pounds of whole geoduck clams in those waters of Foggy Bay along the mainland shore and the Delong Islands shore, south of the latitude of Kirk Point located at 55°00.00' N. latitude and north of the latitude of Foggy Point light at 54°55.53' N. latitude.

Slate Island (Subdistrict 101-23-004): will be open for a guideline harvest level of 10,600 pounds of whole geoduck clams in those waters of Revillagigedo Channel and Boca de Quadra along the mainland, White Reef, and Slate Islands shoreline north of a line from 55°03.67' N. latitude, 130°59.25' W. longitude to 55°03.23' N. latitude, 131°02.80' W. longitude, east of a line from 55°04.50' N. latitude, 130°57.55' W. longitude to 55°05.38' N. latitude, 130°57.80' W. longitude, and south of a line from 55°06.72' N. latitude, 131°02.87' W. longitude to a point in Revillagigedo Channel at 55°05.32' N. latitude, 131°06.23' W. longitude with the following restrictions:

Slate Island mariculture site: approximately 0.14 nautical miles north of the middle Slate Island will be closed to the harvest of geoduck clams in those waters bounded by the coordinates 55°06.11' N. latitude, 131°03.48' W. longitude, 55°06.07' N. latitude 131°03.37' W. longitude, 55°06.00' N. latitude, 131°03.56' W. longitude, and 55°06.06' N. latitude, 131°03.67' W. longitude;

SARDFA enhancement site: approximately 0.65 nautical miles north of the Slate Islands will be closed to the harvest of geoduck clams in those waters bounded by the coordinates 55°06.41' N. latitude, 131°02.26' W. longitude, 55°06.39' N. latitude, 131°02.27' W. longitude, 55°06.34' N. latitude, 131°02.22' W. longitude, 55°06.31' N. latitude, 131°02.21' W. longitude, 55°06.31' N. latitude, 131°02.18' W. longitude, and 55°06.32' N. latitude, 131°02.17' W. longitude.

Cat and Dog Islands (Subdistricts 101-23-005, 101-41-005): will be open for a GHL of 49,000 pounds of whole geoduck clams in those waters of Felice Strait and Revillagigedo Channel north of the latitude of Duke Point on Duke Island at 54°55.15' N. latitude, west of the longitude in Revillagigedo Channel at 131°08.38' W. longitude, south of 55°07.21' N. latitude, and east of 131°27.70' W. longitude (located on the northwest side of Duke Island).

Districts 2 & 3:

Lower Cordova Bay (Subdistricts 102-10, 103-11, 103-21): will be open for a GHF of 21,600 pounds of whole geoduck clams in those waters of Districts 2 and 3, west of 132°01.00' W. longitude, and south of a line from easternmost tip of Cape Muzon at 54°40.20' N. latitude, 132°40.28' W. longitude, to the southernmost tip of Long Island at 54°45.06' N. latitude, 132°38.15' W. longitude, then north along the eastern shoreline of Long Island to 54°53.66' N. latitude, 132°37.91' W. longitude, to a point on the western shore of Prince of Wales Island at 54°55.43' N. latitude, 132°31.58' W. longitude, then south along the shoreline of Prince of Wales Island to 54°54.40' N. latitude, 132°24.77' W. longitude, to the southernmost tip of Klakas Island at 54°53.15' N. latitude, 132°24.54' W. longitude, to a point on the Prince of Wales shoreline at 54°49.68' N. latitude, 132°20.50' W. longitude, then south along the shoreline of Prince of Wales Island to Cape Chacon.

District 3:

East San Fernando Island (Subdistrict 103-60-001): will be open for a GHF of 38,500 pounds of whole geoduck clams in those waters of San Alberto Bay along the eastern shore of San Fernando Island, south and east of a line from Point Polocano to Point Ildefonso, north of the latitude of Point Cuerdo, and west of the longitude of Fern Reef Light at 133°15.87' W. longitude.

Ulitka Bay (Subdistrict 103-70-001): will be open for a GHF of 6,600 pounds of whole geoduck clams in those waters along the northern shoreline of Noyes Island east of Cape Ulitka at 133°43.52' W. longitude, and west of 133°41.33' W. longitude.

Blanquizar Islands (Subdistrict 103-70-005): will be open for a GHF of 45,300 pounds of whole geoduck clams in those waters of San Christoval Channel north of 55°35.80' N. latitude, south of the westernmost tip of Blanquizar Point located at 55°37.35' N. latitude, and east of a line from the southwesternmost tip of Blanquizar Island at 55°38.00' N. latitude, 133°25.00' W. longitude to the northernmost tip of Point San Pasqual.

Palisades Islands (Subdistrict 103-70-006): will be open for a GHF of 135,200 pounds of whole geoduck clams in those waters of San Christoval Channel south of 55°35.80' N. latitude, north of a line from a point on Prince of Wales Island at 55°34.69' N. latitude, 133°15.39' W. longitude, to Point Polocano on San Fernando Island at 55°32.33' N. latitude, 133°17.33' W. longitude, and east of a line from the southwesternmost tip of Blanquizar Island at 55°38.00' N. latitude, 133°25.00' W. longitude to the northernmost tip of Point San Pasqual.

St. Nicholas Channel, North Lulu Island (Subdistrict 103-70-007): will be open for a GHF of 156,100 pounds of whole geoduck clams in those waters of St. Nicholas Channel and Portillo Channel north of a line from the westernmost tip of Point St. Isidor on western Lulu Island to a point on Noyes Island at 55°27.27' N. latitude, 133°38.68' W. longitude, east of a line from a point on Noyes Island at 55°33.10' N. latitude, 133°37.27' W. longitude, to the southernmost tip of western San Lorenzo Island, south of the latitude 55°35.00' N. latitude, west of a line from a point in the Gulf of Esquibel located at 55°37.35' N. latitude, 133°24.70' W. longitude, to Point San Pasqual, and north of a line from a point on Lulu Island at 55°30.80' N. latitude, 133°29.00' W. longitude, to a point on San Fernando Island at 55°31.52' N. latitude, 133°26.90' W. longitude in Portillo Channel.

Port Alice /Cone Bay (Subdistrict 103-90-002): will be open for a GHF of 9,300 pounds of whole geoduck clams in those waters of Sea Otter Sound east and south of a line from the Cape Lynch Light to the southernmost tip of Whale Head Island, south of a line from the southernmost tip of Whale Head Island, to the northernmost tip of Turn Point and east of 133°27.73' W. longitude.

Davidson Inlet (Subdistrict 103-90-004): will be open for a GHL of 18,000 pounds of whole geoduck clams in those waters of Sea Otter Sound and Davidson Inlet west of 133°27.70' W. longitude, east of 133°43.37' W. longitude, and north of a line from Turn Point, to the southernmost tip of Whale Head Island to Alice Rocks at 55°49.46' N. latitude, 133°55.63' W. longitude, with the following restrictions:

Edna Bay: will be closed north of a line from a point near the southern mouth of Edna Bay at 55°55.90' N. latitude, 133°37.75' W. longitude, to Limestone Point at 55°56.33' N. latitude, 133°37.02' W. longitude;

Tokeen Cove: will be closed south of a line from a point on the northwest shore of Marble Island at 55°59.75' N. latitude, 133°28.05' W. longitude, to 55°59.58' N. latitude, 133°28.90' W. longitude;

Unnamed bay on the northwest shore of Marble Island: will be closed east of a line from 55°59.27' N. latitude, 130°29.36' W. longitude, to 55°58.20' N. latitude, 133°29.36' W. longitude.

Districts 3 & 4:

Cone Island North (Subdistricts 103-50-005, 104-40-005): will be open for a GHL of 67,600 pounds of whole geoduck clams in those waters of St. Nicholas Channel, Cone Island, and the eastern shore of Baker Island south of a line from the westernmost tip of Point St. Isidor on western Lulu Island, to a point on Noyes Island at 55°27.27' N. latitude, 133°38.68' W. longitude, east of a line extending from the southernmost tip of St. Nicholas Point, to the western most tip of Cone Island, and north and west of a line from the eastern most shore of Cone Island, to a point on Lulu Island at 55°26.93' N. latitude, and 133°36.42' W. longitude.

Cone Island South and Paloma Pass (Subdistricts 103-50-006, 104-35-006): will be open for a GHL of 56,900 pounds of whole geoduck clams in those waters north and east of a line extending from Siketi Point to a point on Baker Island located at 55°24.11' N. latitude, 133°36.70' W. longitude, north and west of a line through Paloma Passage at the latitude of the southernmost tip of Pigeon Island located at 55°25.83' N. latitude, and south of a line from the easternmost shore of Cone Island, to a point on Lulu Island at 55°26.93' N. latitude, 133°36.42' W. longitude.

Districts 3 & 5:

Warren Island and Kosciusko Island (Subdistricts 103-90-005, 105-41,43,50-005): will be open for a GHL of 17,600 pounds of whole geoduck clams in those waters of Warren Channel and Sumner Strait north of a line from the southernmost tip of Whale Head Island to Alice Rocks, at 55°49.46' N. latitude, 133°55.63' W. longitude, east of a line from Alice Rocks to Berluse Rocks, at 55°54.97' N. latitude, 133°57.74' W. longitude, to 56°08.66' N. latitude, 133°44.58' W. longitude, south of 56°13.26' N. latitude, and east a line from 55°08.66' N. latitude, 133°37.30' W. longitude, then south along the western shore of Kosciusko Island to the southernmost tip of Kosciusko Island at 55°53.96' N. latitude, 133°43.37' W. longitude, then due south to 55°49.00' N. latitude, 133°43.37' W. longitude with the following restriction:

Unnamed cove on the western shore of Kosciusko Island: will be closed east of a line from 56°03.27' N. latitude, 133°42.07' W. longitude, to 56°02.87' N. latitude, 133°42.30' W. longitude.

District 4:

Port Santa Cruz (Subdistrict 104-30-002): will be open for a GHL of 52,800 pounds of whole geoduck clams in those waters north of a line from Cape Felix on Suemez Island, to Cape Bartolome light on Baker Island, and south of a line from Point San Roque on Baker Island, to Point Arboleda on Suemez Island.

Northwest Dall Island (Subdistricts 104-20-003, 104-30-003): will be open for a GHL of 16,800 pounds of whole geoduck clams in those waters of Meares Passage, Sea Otter Harbor, Divers Bay, and Bobs Bay, south and west of a line from Eagle Point on Dall Island, to a point on Suemez Island at 55°14.68' N. latitude, 133°14.45' W. longitude, and north and east of a line from Lontana Point on Suemez Island, to Cape Lookout on Dall Island.

District 13:

Symonds Bay (Subdistrict 113-31-002): will be open in those waters of Symonds Bay on Biorka Island south of a line from the westernmost tip of Hanus Island at 56°51.90' N. latitude, 135°30.50' W. longitude, to the easternmost tip of Entrance Island at 56°51.92' N. latitude, 135°31.52' W. longitude.

Taigud and Kolosh Islands Area (Subdistricts 113-31-004, 113-41-004): will be open in those waters along the western coast of Baranof Island and associated offshore islands, south and east of a line from Cape Burunof to the northernmost tip of Little Biorka Island, and north and east of a line from a point at the southern entrance of Kliuchevoi Bay at 56°50.18' N. latitude, 135°22.67' W. longitude, to a point southwest of Fragrant Island, at 56°50.08' N. latitude, 135°25.77' W. longitude, to a point approximately midway between Torsar Island and Blackbird Island at 56°50.48' N. latitude, 135°25.77' W. longitude, to Middle Rock, to the northernmost tip of Hanus Island, and to the northernmost tip of Little Biorka Island.

Biorka Channel and Legma Island Area (Subdistrict 113-31-003): will be open in those waters east of a line from the northeasternmost tip of Hanus Island, to a point on the southeast shore of Biorka Island at 56°50.55' N. latitude, 135°30.97' W. longitude, to 56°47.10' N. latitude, 135°25.60' W. longitude, (approximately 0.45 nautical miles southeast of Jug Island); and south and west of a line from the northeasternmost tip of Hanus Island, to the westernmost tip of Middle Rock, to 56°50.48' N. latitude, 135°25.77' W. longitude (approximately midway between Torsar Island and Blackbird Island), to 56°47.10' N. latitude, 135°25.60' W. longitude (approximately 0.45 nautical miles southeast of Jug Island).

Elovoi, Golf, and Gornoi Islands area (Subdistrict 113-31-005): will open in the waters enclosed by a line from the southern entrance of Kliuchevoi Bay at 56°50.18' N. latitude, 135°22.67' W. longitude to 56°50.08' N. latitude, 135°25.77' W. longitude (southwest of Fragrant Island), to 56°47.10' N. latitude, 135°25.60' W. longitude (approximately 0.45 nautical miles southeast of Jug Island) to 56°41.97' N. latitude, 135°17.52' W. longitude (southern tip of Scow Island), to 56°41.73' N. latitude, 135°15.50' W. longitude (southernmost tip of Beauchamp Island), with the following restrictions:

Middle Channel: will be closed east of a line from 56°44.10' N. latitude, 135°14.77' W. longitude to 56°44.37' N. latitude, 135°15.02' W. longitude;

West Crawfish Inlet: will be closed east of a line from 56°46.28' N. latitude, 135°16.39' W. longitude, to 56°46.69' N. latitude, to 135°17.21' W. longitude.

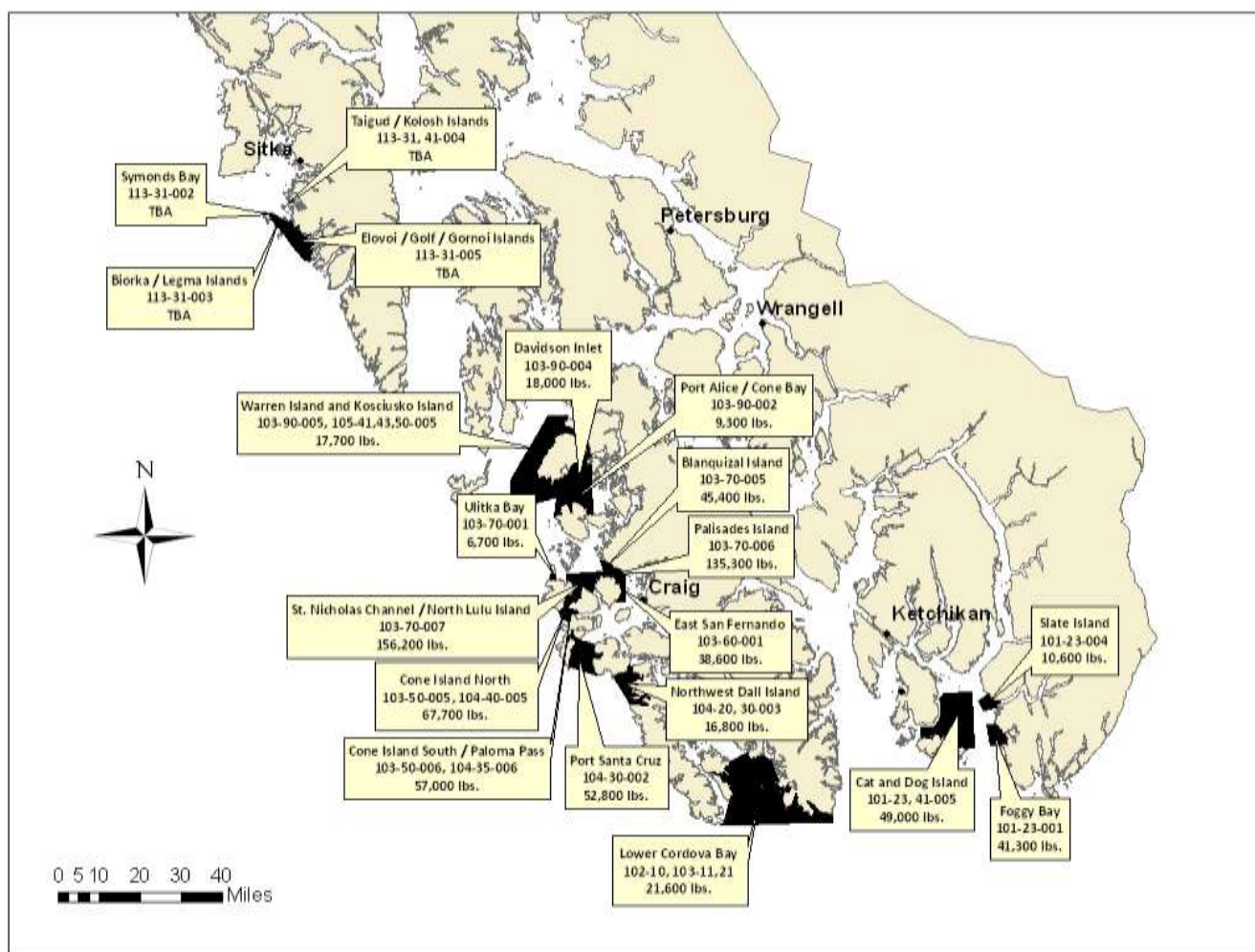


Figure 1. Commercial geoduck open fishery areas and guideline harvest levels for the 2012-13 season.

Note: This chart is for general reference purposes only and does not identify boundaries of open areas. See written descriptions above for detailed description of open areas.

News releases web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

Office	Ketchikan	Petersburg	Wrangell	Sitka	Juneau	Haines	Hoonah	Yakutat
ADF&G	225-5195	772-3801	874-3822	747-6688	465-4250	766-2830		784-3255
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